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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1820  
INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE  
RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE  
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

Thursday, 04 September 2008, 10:56  
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KHARTOUM 001354  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF A/S FRAZER, S/E WILLIAMSON, AF/SPG  
NSC FOR PITTMAN AND HUDSON

ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU

EO 12958 DECL: 08/12/2018

TAGS PGOV, PREL, KPKO, UNSC, AU-1, SU, CM

SUBJECT: CHINA COUNSELS SUDANESE ENGAGEMENT, U.S. RESTRAINT

IN ICC PROCEEDINGS AGAINST BASHIR

Classified By: CDA Alberto M. Fernandez, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: During his recent visit to Sudan, Chinese Special Envoy Zhai Jun strongly counseled the GOS to remain prudent in dealing with Special Envoy Zhen's Message to Khartoum

¶2. (C) On September 3, Chinese Ambassador Li Cheng Wen briefed Charge Fernandez on Chinese Special Envoy and Assistant Foreign Minister Zhai J

¶3. (C) According to Li, SE Zhai praised the GOS for its calm handling of the matter thus far, and encouraged GOS officials to continue to mobilize ICC Action Threatens Darfur Progress

¶4. (C) Li stated that the GOC is extremely worried about how the ICC indictment will affect stability in Darfur, asserting that it has hardened GOC concerns over the matter.

¶5. (C) CDA Fernandez thanked Li for China's helpful and useful message to the GOS. He noted that while the United States shares GOC concerns over the matter.

¶6. (C) Li concurred that the GOS could do more to speed up humanitarian access and take other positive actions but cautioned that "only pressurizing" the GOC would not resolve the situation.

¶7. (C) Li expressed puzzlement at perceived British and French support for ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo. He stated that "whoever has been pushing for the arrest warrant for Bashir has been pushing for the arrest warrant for Bashir."

KHARTOUM 00001354 002 OF 002

present great challenges to achieving peace in Darfur, but commented that the decision to indict President Bashir was may have been made by an

U.S. Should Not Block Delaying ICC Action

¶8. (C) CDA Fernandez' meeting with Li followed a flurry of erroneous media reports that China is expected to "veto" the issuance of an arrest

Comment

¶9. (C) Li's concern that the issuance of an arrest warrant for President Bashir could have profound destabilizing effects are well founded. Cc

FERNANDEZ